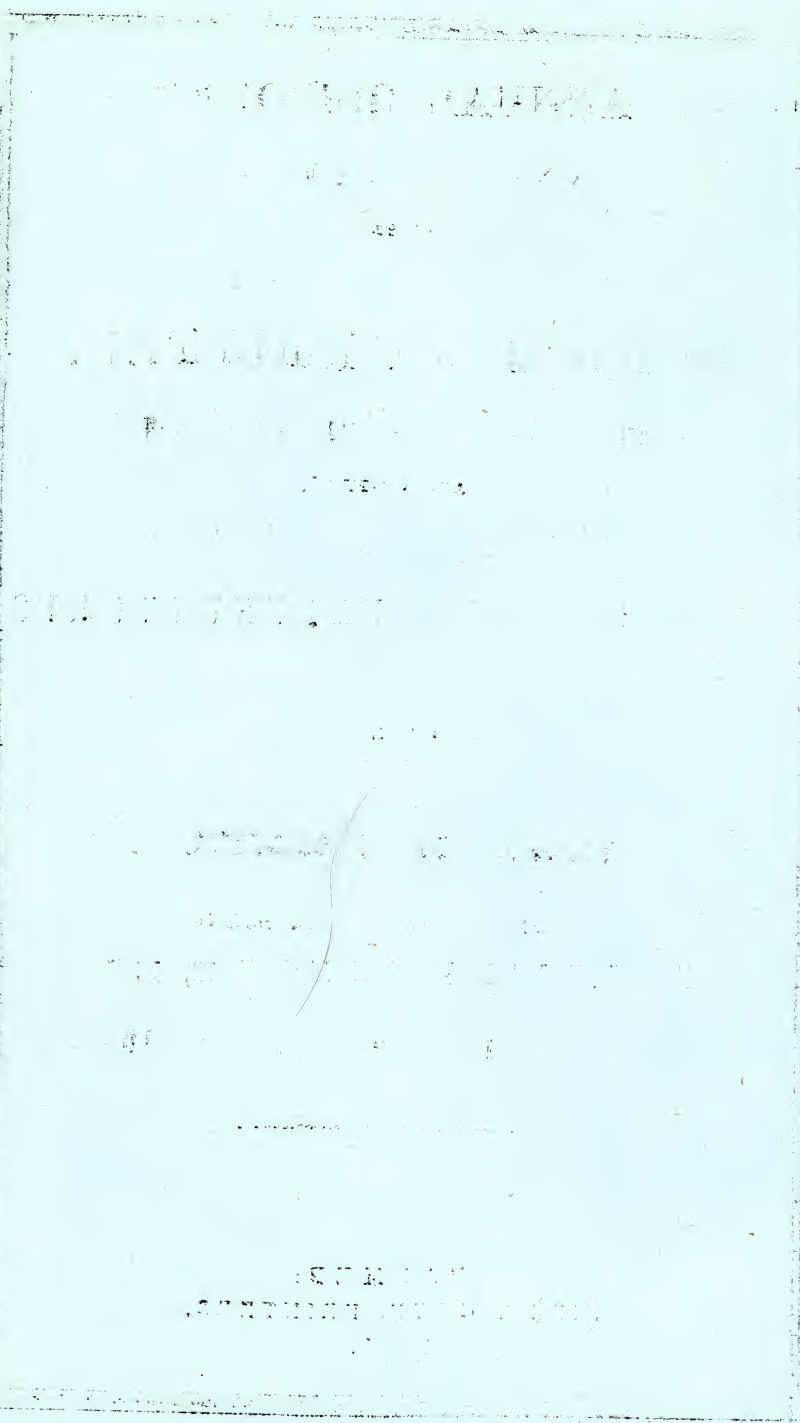


ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
AND OF THE
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES
OF THE
TOWN OF PALMER,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 12, 1857.

PALMER:
FISK & GOFF, PRINTERS.
1857.



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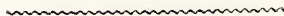
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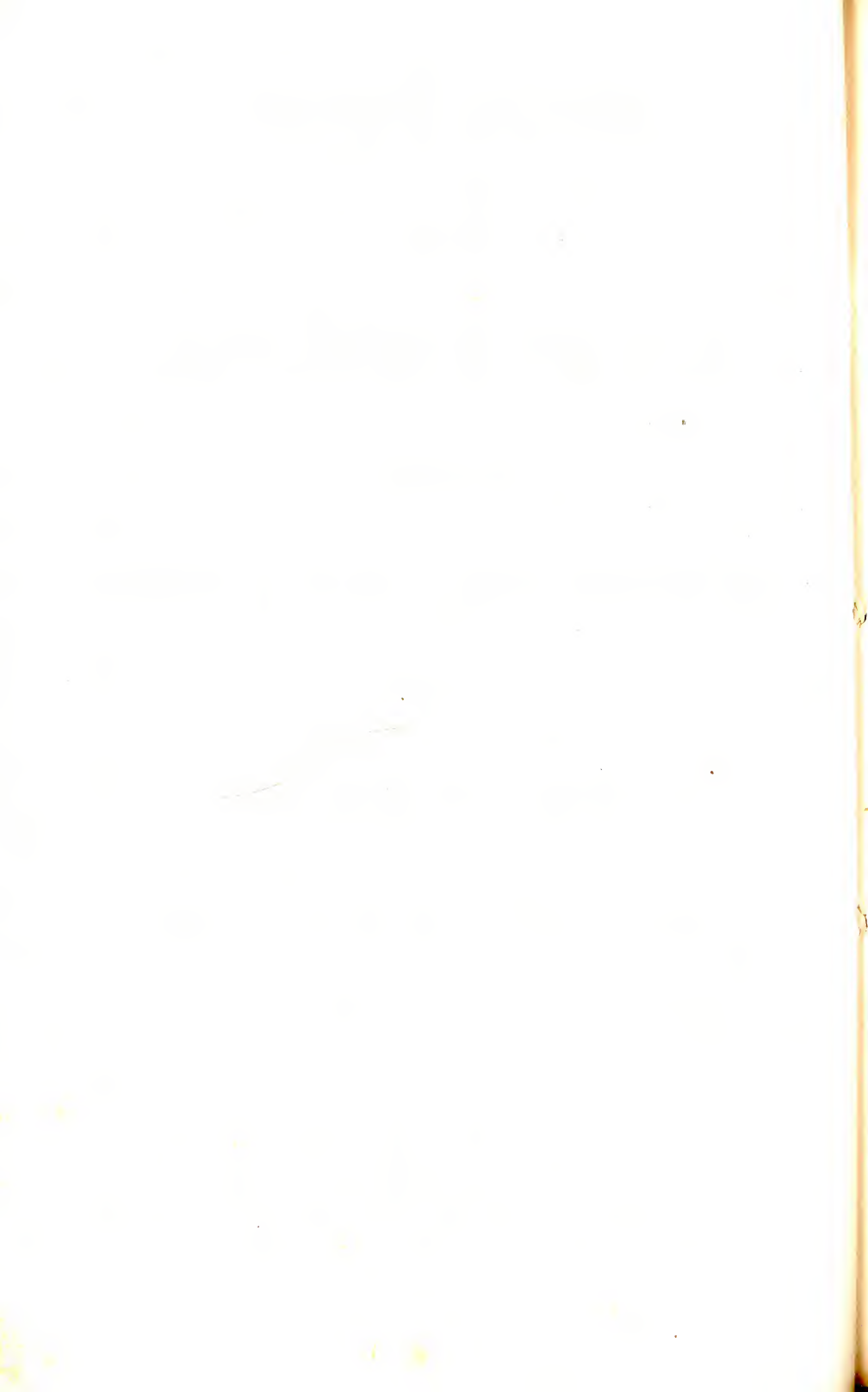
OF THE

TOWN OF PALMER,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 12, 1857.



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REPORT.

IN compliance with a law of the Commonwealth, requiring a "detailed report of the condition of the several public schools," the Superintending School Committee of the town of Palmer, submit the following summary of the actual condition of the schools, for the year last past :

At a preliminary meeting of the Committee, the several school districts were assigned for supervision, as follows :

To Mr. Collins,	Nos. 12, 2, 9, 6.
" " Bullock,	" 3, 4, 1, 8.
" " Gates,	" 13, 10, 11, 5, 7.

Mr. Collins,	} GRADED SCHOOL.
" Bullock.	

District No. 1.

The SUMMER TERM was taught by Miss Adelaide V. Hitchcock, a resident of the District. Her method of discipline, was mild and conciliatory, happily adapted to the condition of her pupils, most of whom were young. The closing examination attested her diligence and "aptness to teach."

The WINTER TERM was taught by Mr. A. Prentiss Brown, of Belcher-town. His qualifications as a whole, were deemed sufficient for any ordinary school, and yet in one or two specialities, there was a marked deficiency apparent, both in his examination before the Committee, and at the closing exhibition of the school. His familiarity with the higher rules and branches was extensive, while there was a neglect of rudimentary instruction. The government was good, and the progress made, reasonable. He was earnest and diligent, though sometimes indiscreet.

District No. 2.

SUMMER, AUTUMN AND WINTER TERMS taught by Miss Sarah Sedgwick. There was a gradual improvement from the commencement of her first term to the close of her school. The District was fortunate in securing the services of Miss Sedgwick.

SECOND DEPARTMENT.—Commenced under the instruction of Miss Sophia Shumway, who exhibited the qualities of a faithful instructor. She was obliged to resign on account of ill health, and was succeeded by Mr. George H. Howe, who closed the term with credit to himself and profit to the District. The fall and winter term was taught by Miss Jennie Sedgwick, who kept an excellent school.

District No. 3.

FIRST DIVISION.—The summer term was taught by Miss Elizabeth J. Hale, of Thorndike, a teacher well reported of by former Committees. Miss Hale's success during this term, fully met the expectations of all concerned. There were some restive and refractory elements mingled with the school, which had heretofore caused trouble, but which, under her judicious management, were entirely subdued. Few teachers possess more firmness and skill. The progress made, was flattering.

SECOND DIVISION.—The summer term was taught by Miss Mary F. Brown, of Brimfield. She brought to her task, that superior discipline acquired in one of our State Normal Schools. Her method of instruction was unusually methodical, and the progress of her pupils, rapid. The winter term of this Division was also under her instruction, with equal success. A portion of the time there were sixty members of her department—many more than could be decently accommodated. The building, with its limited capacity and miserable appointments, is a reproach to the District.

District No. 4.

The **SUMMER TERM** was taught by Miss Sarah F. Brown, of Brimfield, a graduate of the Westfield Normal School. The number of pupils was small, most of them of a tender age. She displayed many of the higher qualifications of an efficient instructor, though the range of her effort was restricted by the limited wants of her scholars. The closing examination was not lacking in interest because it indicated thoroughness of instruction.

The **WINTER TERM** was taught by Miss Henrietta King, of Easthampton. Although a novice in the duties of the school-room, this first attempt augurs well for the future. Her literary qualifications are above mediocrity, and the instruction was thorough and radical. The closing examination was highly satisfactory.

District No. 5.

SUMMER TERM.—Miss Marra M. Hastings, Teacher.—This was a small school, and not the interest manifested by the scholars to comply with the requirements of the teacher there would have been, if she had been better sustained by the parents. The school appeared very well, when visited by the committee.

WINTER TERM.—Mr. Philo D. Willis, Teacher.—Mr. W. is well known in town as a successful teacher, and his services in this District

made it convenient for the attendance of several large scholars, together with others, made the school interesting for a few weeks. It was then closed on the account of the small pox in the neighborhood.

District No. 6.

SUMMER TERM, taught by Miss Martha M. Sedgwick. Miss Sedgwick succeeded admirably in gaining the affections of the scholars, and establishing good order in her school. Her success was equal to her industry.

The **WINTER TERM** was taught by Mr. George W. Calkins. This was his first attempt at teaching school, and he was very successful; for a young and inexperienced teacher none excel him. The school made excellent progress under his instruction.

District No. 7.

SUMMER AND WINTER TERM.—Miss Ellen S. Hill, Teacher.—The school appeared very well under the charge of Miss Hill, and as much progress was made by the scholars as could be expected under the present circumstances. The town should devise a better method to educate the few children in this District, as it requires something more than the appropriation of money, or teachers, to place this school in the grade of scholarship with others in town. This District has its share of the funds raised for schooling, but an old school-house, fast falling to pieces; the expense for fuel, nearly twice the amount of our central District, and the little or no interest on the part of the parents to see that their children attend school, shows a loss of a large share of their money. Twenty-seven per cent. non-attendance, is much too large for a school of seven scholars.

District No. 8.

The **SUMMER TERM** was taught by Miss Mary Hanover, of Wilbraham. This was her first effort as a teacher; although destitute of experience, and having charge of a school where elementary training had been sadly neglected, there was a gradual improvement manifested at each successive visit of the Committee. The school was well instructed and governed.

The **WINTER TERM** was taught by Miss Emily A. Coe, of Springfield, with success. The school was large for the limited room, but the order and quiet secured, compensated for this deficiency. The instruction imparted was thorough and exact. The parents and pupils have reason to congratulate themselves in view of two *profitable* terms.

District No. 9.

The **WINTER TERM** was taught by Mr. Henry McCracken of Natick. His qualifications were of a high order, and his character above reproach. By an ungracious interference on the part of a few members of the District, his usefulness was impaired. There was but a single scholar in attendance at the closing examination. The Committee heartily and unanimously sustained him against these adverse influences to the close of his school.

District No. 10.

SUMMER TERM.—Miss Maria H. Peters, Teacher.—This school was visited several times by the Committee during the term, and very good progress was made by some of the scholars in their studies, while others derived but little benefit by their attendance, and were the cause of much trouble during the term. Unfortunately their parents sustained them in doing wrong, rather than the teacher, in trying to make them do right. Miss P. labored hard to keep a good school, and probably would have given satisfaction in any other school. Her principal failure, not severe enough with roguish scholars.

WINTER TERM.—Philander Thurston, Teacher.—Mr. T. was a good disciplinarian, and has done much to elevate this school to rank with our best. Order was good; recitations showed a progress in the branches pursued. The examination was such as to give credit to teacher and scholar. Mr. Thurston is now keeping a private school in the same District.

District No. 11.

SUMMER AND WINTER TERM.—Miss Minerva M. Hastings, Teacher.—Miss H. was very successful during both terms of school. Much interest was manifested on the part of the scholars to excel, and to receive the highest prize for scholarship. At the closing examination, the many present were much gratified with the appearance of the school and the recitations, which were well understood. There were several scholars in this school that had not been absent a day, nor tardy during the last term; we noticed also, on the record of scholarship, those that have recited all of their lessons, for weeks, without missing a question.

District No. 12.

FIRST DEPARTMENT.—Saloma G. Twitchell, **WINTER TERM.**—Miss Twitchell is a highly educated and successful teacher. Her government was mild, steady, and parental, at the same time, decided and firm, respecting the better feelings of her scholars, which led them to respect themselves.

SECOND DEPARTMENT.—**SUMMER TERM.**—Miss Sarah Nelson, Teacher. Miss Nelson did not succeed in securing the affection and respect of her scholars sufficient to make her school pleasant, and the District pleased with her as a teacher.

FALL AND WINTER TERMS, taught by Miss Sarah F. Brown.—Miss Brown succeeded in gaining the respect and confidence of her pupils, and kept one of the best regulated schools in town.

THE THIRD DEPARTMENT.—**SUMMER TERM.**—Miss Emerancy Howard, Teacher.—Miss Howard had to resign on account of ill health, and other and more pressing engagements. She was amongst our best instructors, but like many of our successful teachers, was willing to relinquish her calling for more delightful and pleasing relations of life. She was succeeded by Miss Julia Putnam of Sutton, Mass., who was the right one to take the place of Miss Howard, although a stranger, and it being her first school, she succeeded, by patience and industry, in winning the commendations of the entire District. She taught the fall and winter term, with increased interest, and profit to the numerous scholars under her charge.

District No. 13.

SUMMER TERM.—Miss Sarah Potter, Teacher.—This school is too large for one teacher, and is made up of quite a different grade of scholars. Miss P. endeavored to perform her duties faithfully, and a very good progress was made by some of the scholars. But through the term there was a want of order.

WINTER TERM.—Robert W. Allen, Teacher.—A very successful term of school; the teacher was resolute and firm; the order was good, and a marked progress was made in the studies pursued.

Graded School.

The difficulty of making a High School conform to the actual wants of the different sections of the town, destitute as we are, of any central locality where it could become a permanent institution, and easily approached from the utmost limits, was seriously felt by many of our citizens, who questioned the expediency of retaining an institution which must alternate its position every year in three or four different villages. Accordingly, at the annual meeting of the town, in March, the following vote was passed:

“That the town appropriate three hundred dollars, to be expended by the School Committee in raising the grade of two, or more, of the District Schools to the standard required by law for High Schools, and any surplus money remaining, to be expended under their direction for the benefit of the schools.”

In carrying into effect this vote, the Committee made choice of two District Schools, the one at Thorndike and the other at the Depot.

The spring term commenced at Thorndike under the charge of Mr. Lyman Partridge of Bellingham, graduate of the Westfield Normal School. He came well recommended, and more than sustained his reputation as a scholar and thorough teacher. He also taught the fall term, at the same place, and fully sustained the reputation that he had established during his first term of instruction.

The autumn and winter terms commenced at the Depot, under the charge of Mr. Charles H. Griffin of Epsom, N. H. The school was neither large nor advanced, the first term, and although well qualified, the teacher manifested too much diffidence for the claims of his office. The scholars took advantage of this modesty, and the closing examination failed to do him ample justice. During the winter term, however, this fault was repaired, and his manner became more authoritative. The school was orderly, and well governed—the instruction thorough, the system rigid and the progress marked. We regard him as a young man of talent and promise. He leaves with the universal respect and best wishes of the District.

GENERAL REVIEW.

HAVING submitted the details of their Report, your Committee would take occasion to congratulate the citizens of the town upon the success of the public schools during the year. The qualifications of most of the

teachers employed, has been of a high order, and consequently, there has been less inefficiency than in some previous years. With perhaps a single exception, the districts have unanimously sustained and encouraged the teachers in the prosecution of their duties. This fact has contributed materially to the order and progress of the instructed. Without such co-operation, the efforts of the best talent, are effectually wasted.

As a town interest, the public schools are in advance of every other ; at the foundation, by general consent, of justice and a respect for law and order, the conservators of virtue and the wisdom of our practical life, they claim the considerate regard of every citizen, and all measures which give promise of increasing their efficiency should be resorted to, as a paramount obligation, and the result will prove it to be public economy.

Many of the school-houses need extensive repairs, and a modernizing of their internal arrangements, both for the comfort and health of the pupils. Some of them seem more like unsightly relics of semi-civilization than shrines of learning. There is a general deficiency of maps and apparatus for the illustration of the studies pursued. Most of the scholars are entirely destitute. Outline maps have come to be a necessity to an accurate knowledge of geography ; their cost bears no proportion to the value received, and we respectfully urge their purchase by the several Districts as an act of justice to your children, already too long deferred.

Our predecessors, in their annual report, recommended the purchase of school-books by the town, to be distributed gratuitously, and we renew this recommendation. The practical results of such a plan, are too valuable to be lost sight of. It would establish uniformity in text-books—a desideratum in every school, besides saving much time, necessarily wasted at the commencement of every term, in sending for books. The classification of pupils would be more perfect and easily effected, than it can be under the present practice, and there would be fewer classes to divide the attention of the teacher. Publishers, in filling such orders, would make a greater discount than where they are purchased in smaller quantities, and the amount of money saved to our citizens, would be a considerable item.

Having been identified with the working of the Graded as a substitute for the High School, the results of our experience are adverse to the change. We cannot tell what the existing schools might have been, under a more generous appropriation of funds, but we are free to say, the system has by no means met our expectation. The more advanced class of pupils—those whom it was designed to benefit—have held it in contempt, while parents have practically ignored it, by sending their children out of town, to boarding schools. The appropriation made, has not enabled us to secure teachers competent to instruct in branches required to be taught by Statute. It was with the utmost difficulty we secured the services of the two gentlemen who filled the posts. The number in attendance, and the branches of study pursued, has not justified the appropriation of an extra amount of money upon two districts—which by reason of their size, are ordinarily more liberally provided for than others, and we are constrained to say that injustice has been done to other and remote sections of the town. The system, as at present established, requires two different

teachers, for a little more than five months' each, at a small salary, and it will be impossible to secure first or even second grade instructors. We are of the opinion that the High School should be restored, as a measure both of wisdom and economy, if any school above the ordinary grade is to be sustained. This recommendation is, of course, based on the experience of a single year. If, in this change, the town has evaded the letter of the law, it has by no means met its design. The law requires an ability to teach the ancient languages and the higher mathematics; to do this, tolerably, the teacher must be a proficient in them, and such proficiency will command more than four hundred dollars per annum; and this was all we could pay. Men competent to take charge of a High School, cannot be found, who will consent to come here for six months, at *any* salary, when permanent situations are open to them elsewhere. Whatever plan may be adopted, a permanent teacher can alone give efficiency to it—a *yearling* can neither feel the interest nor act as wisely in his methods, as one who has a series of years before him. *Five hundred* dollars will not secure you a permanent teacher of the right stamp. If then, gentlemen, the schools have failed to meet your wishes, the facts are before you. We were limited to a mere pittance. Had a larger sum been placed at our disposal, they would have been undoubtedly better.

The whole amount of money raised for all the schools, is barely sufficient to give each a respectable term, summer and winter; to increase their length, without any great addition to the amount of yearly appropriations, we recommend that the town be RE-DISTRICTED, and some two or three of the present Districts, abolished. Since the establishment of the existing limits, numerous changes have occurred in population—while some Districts have been augmented, others have been greatly diminished;—considerable villages have grown up and left their school-houses at inconvenient distances from the centers. This measure will be inevitable, at no distant day, and the sooner effected, the better for the interests of our schools. The town is now compelled to support schools where the number of scholars is very small, which could, without much trouble, be merged into others, and thus increase both the amount of money and the length of the school. The consideration of this advantage should outweigh prejudice and some few necessary inconveniences.

The Gamwell District, No 9, was without a summer school, and the winter term was attended by nine pupils; the last five weeks only one attended; the average attendance was four. The amount of money expended was twenty-one dollars and thirty-nine cents to each scholar. On the whole number, who attended more or less, eight dollars fifty-five cents. We think the interest of the town requires that the District should be abolished. The school at the Old Center can accommodate most of them—one or two of the children could, perhaps, be better accommodated at Warren.

The village at the Depot is unfortunately located for one District; experience has shown that it cannot meet the wants of the two extremes, and we are of the opinion that it should be so divided as to make two. One school-house could be located somewhere in Blanchardville, and embrace within its limits the larger portion of the Mason District; a num-

ber distantly located from it, might be accommodated elsewhere. The other, could be situated somewhere in the vicinity of Col. Knox's residence and include most of the Burley District. The more distant families could send to Three Rivers or Thorndike. Districts No's. 5 and 7, Shaw and Foster, could be dispensed with as easily, and it would promote the interests of parents and scholars.

The only plausible objection that can be urged against the adoption of this plan is, that it will, to some extent, interfere with the privileges and convenience of those neighborhoods where schools are now established, and subject children, in many instances, to a longer journey. But this, after all, is not so great an evil, as some imagine. The necessity which compels this exercise, is generally fortunate, as it tends to physical development and mental invigoration.

We trust this recommendation may receive a reasonable amount of consideration. We can see no injustice in such a measure, if effected. The effect of it would be to place some nearer the school-house, who are now compelled to go a long distance, and others, who are now living near would be removed as far from it. "The greatest good to the greatest number," demands of you some change similar to the one we have indicated, or the appropriation of a much larger sum of money to be disbursed among the smaller Districts. The former course seems to us the most desirable and practicable, and yet we think there should be some increase of school money, unless there is, the two divisions in District No. 3, embracing from eighty to a hundred scholars, must be without a spring and summer school, and others will be largely diminished in length of term.

The moral character of a school is of the very highest importance. Experience has abundantly shown that religion, (not sectarianism,) and education cannot be safely divorced; the welfare of your children requires great care in the selection of teachers of correct habits, and possessed of moral principle. Deficiency on this point, is more to be deplored than in intellectual ability or acquisition. The Committee have uniformly sustained the teachers in the judicious use of corporal punishment, and we have been gratified at the results in order and propriety of deportment as well as respect for the instructors.

Your former Committee did much to elevate the standard of deportment and scholarship, by introducing a series of regulations for the government of both teachers and scholars; also, in furnishing Diplomas as a reward of merit. With some slight alterations, this system has been retained, and we have had frequent occasion to notice its advantages in imparting enthusiasm and a laudable ambition. In concluding this review we are gratified with the success of our efforts; few complaints have reached us from parents—on the contrary, they have sympathized with the teachers, visited the schools more frequently than usual, and cheerfully sustained the suggestions of your Committee.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GAMALIEL COLLINS,	}	<i>School Committee.</i>
ANDREW D. BULLOCK,		
EPHRAIM B. GATES,		

STATISTICS OF THE SCHOOLS.

In the column of "Average Number," the fractions have been omitted.

NO. 1.—GRADED SCHOOL.

PLACE.	TEACHERS.	Wages per month.	Time in month.	Whole No.	Average No.
Thorndike,	Lyman Partridge,	\$35 00	2½	28	26
"	"	35 00	2¾	32	29
Palmer Depot,	Charles H. Griffin,	40 00	2¾	41	29
"	"	40 00	2½	40	32

NO. 2.—SUMMER TERM.

DISTRICTS.	TEACHERS.	Wages per month.	Time in months.	Whole No.	Average No.
1, Old Centre,	Adelaide V. Hitchcock,	\$17 00	2½	24	14
2, Three Rivers, 1st D.	Sarah Sedgwick,	19 00	3	28	21
" " 2d D.	Sophia Shumway,	17 00	3	48	24
3, Depot, 1st D.	Elizabeth J. Hale,	22 00	2½	32	25
3, " 2d D.	Mary F. Brown,	19 00	2½	45	36
4, Mason,	Sarah F. Brown,	15 00	3½	25	19
5, Foster,	Maria M. Hastings,	12 00	2	8	7
6, Burley,	Martha M. Sedgwick,	15 00	2½	11	9
7, Shaw,	Ellen S. Hill,	12 00	1½	6	5
8, Shearer,	Mary A. Hanover,	16 00	3	24	18
9, Gamwell,	—	—	—	—	—
10, Bondville,	Maria Peters,	16 00	3½	40	31
11, Hastings,	Minerva M. Hastings,	14 00	2½	15	11
12, Thorndike,	—	—	—	—	—
" 2d D.	Sara Nelson,	18 00	2¾	56	50
" 3d D.	Emerancy Howard,	20 00	2¾	95	48
13, Duckville,	Sarah M. Potter,	18 00	2½	70	55

NO. 3.—AUTUMN TERM.

DISTRICTS.	TEACHERS.	Wages per month.	Time in months.	Whol No	Average No.
2, Three Rivers, 1st D.	Sarah Sedgwick,	\$20 00	2	24	19
" " 2d D.	Jennie Sedgwick,	17 00	2	48	31
12, Thorndike, 2d D.	Sarah F. Brown,	18 00	2¼	37	32
" 3d D.	Julia A. Putnam,	20 00	2¾	59	50

STATISTICS OF THE SCHOOLS, (CONTINUED.)

NO. 4—WINTER TERM.

DISTRICTS.	TEACHERS.	Wages per month.	Time in months	Whole No.	Average No.
1, Old Centre,	A. Prentiss Brown,	\$25 50	3	29	26
2, Three Rivers, 1st D.	Sarah Sedgwick,	23 00	3	36	27
“ “ 2d D.	Jennie Sedgwick,	20 00	3	46	29
3, Depot, 2d D.	Mary F. Brown,	23 00	3	58	47
4, Mason,	Henrietta King,	17 00	3	25	15
5, Foster,	Philo D. Willis,	28 00	2	17	15
6, Burley,	George W. Calkins,	20 00	2	23	18
7, Shaw,	Ellen S. Hill,	17 00	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	8	6
8, Shearer,	Emily A. Coe,	16 00	3	33	28
9, Gamwell,	H. H. McCracken,	28 00	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	6	3
10, Bondville,	Philander Thurston,	25 00	3	40	30
11, Hastings,	Minerva M. Hastings,	16 00	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	14	11
12, Thorndike, 1st D.	Salome G. Twitchell,	26 00	3	22	19
“ 2d D.	Sarah F. Brown,	20 00	3	32	24
“ 3d D.	Julia A. Putnam,	20 00	3	34	24
13, Duckville,	Robert W. Allen,	29 00	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	68	46

NUMBER OF SCHOLARS, AND DIVISION OF THE SCHOOL MONEY FOR THE YEAR 1856-7

Districts.	No. of Scholars.	\$1700 divided on the Scholar by the Assessors.	\$300 divided by the Committee.	\$157.38 State Fund, and \$49.50 Merriek Fund divided equally. [\$206.88.]	Total.	Amount to each Scholar in the several districts.
No. 1,	23	\$51.24-4	\$37.76	15.91	\$104.91-4	\$4.56-1
“ 2,	126	280.72-8	— —	15.91	296.63-8	2.35-4
“ 3,	98	218.34-4	— —	15.91	234.25-4	2.39
“ 4,	24	53.47-2	26.53	15.91	95.91-2	3.99-6
“ 5,	11	24.50	55.50	15.91	95.91	8.72
“ 6,	34	75.75-2	4.25	15.91	95.91-2	2.82-1
“ 7,	11	24.50	55.50	15.91	95.91	8.72
“ 8,	19	42.33-2	15.67	15.91	73.91-2	3.89
“ 9,	9	20.05-2	31.52	15.91	67.48-2	7.49-8
“ 10,	35	77.98	11.02	15.91	104.91	2.99-7
“ 11,	11	24.50	55.50	15.91	95.91	8.72
“ 12,	228	507.98-4	6.75*	15.91	523.89-4	2.29-2
“ 13,	134	298.55-2	— —	15.91	314.46-2	2.34
Total,	763	\$1700.00	\$300.00	\$206.88		

*Appropriated to town of Wilbraham.

Due from the town of Monson, \$28 00 to district No. 8.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

THE Selectmen chosen to report the receipts and expenditures of the town for the past year in detail, respectfully submit the following :

RECEIPTS.

Balance in the treasury March 10, 1856,	\$107 23
Amount received of Parker W. Webster for Taxes, 1855,	1,457 65
“ “ “ Lyman S. Hills, “ “ 1856,	9,046 76
“ “ “ State for support of State Paupers,	40 06
“ “ “ State School Fund,	157 38
“ “ “ Interest on School Fund Note,	49 50
“ “ “ Peddlers' Licenses,	18 00
“ “ “ Circus “	30 00
“ “ “ Town Agents for Liquors sold,	607 88
“ “ “ Selectmen of Belchertown for assisting Chauncey Squire's family,	20 75
“ “ “ Overseers Poor for two years support of Molly Ferry and costs of court,	89 56
“ “ “ Elam Ferry for support of Molly Ferry, to April 1st, 1856,	25 00
“ “ “ Town of Prescott for support of Pau- pers,	20 00
“ “ “ Guardian Moore children,	111 36
“ “ “ Selectmen for Lumber and old Iron sold from Burley Bridge,	18 00
	<hr/> \$11,799 13

EXPENDITURES.

SCHOOLS.

<i>Graded Schools.</i>	<i>Amount Paid.</i>
School Committee for Teacher's Salary,	\$328 45
Ephraim B. Gates for fitting up High School Room in Thorndike and furnishing wood, 1855,	21 97
School Committee for Books furnished for Scholars,	4 59
“ “ “ Maps for Graded Schools.	2 00
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	<hr/> \$357 01

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>		\$357 01
District No. 1,	amount of orders paid in current year,	162 37
" " 2,		570 83
" " 3,		267 55
" " 4,		93 75
" " 5,		75 17
" " 6,		102 12
" " 7,		80 75
" " 8,		98 00
" " 9,		83 25
" " 10,		129 44
" " 11,		97 44
" " 12,		595 12
" " 13,		233 70
		<hr/>
		\$2,946 50

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

		<i>Amount Paid.</i>
Horace Hunn for Lumber and Labor on Burley Bridge,		\$439 47
Thorndike Co. for Lumber and Plank on " "		31 90
Ephraim B. Gates for Timber and Plank on Burley Bridge,		171 35
Jesse M. Buffington, " " " "		112 50
Daniel Cook, Jr., for Stone Work on Burley Bridge,		58 24
Joshua Graves for " " " "		97 50
Horace Stowell for " " " "		94 00
Alanson Curtis for Blacksmithing on " "		39 72
C. D. Lewis for Labor on Burley Bridge,		51 00
Henry Thayer for " " " "		70 00
John S. Green for " " " "		20 12
Horace Stowell for Repairing " "		15 00
Lyman Chamberlain for Blacksmithing on Burley Bridge,		6 98
Francis Potter for injury received on highway,		10 00
Michael Maloney " " " "		2 79
George Bennett " " " "		3 00
George Moores " " " "		4 00
Alvin Hastings for building railing on highway,		3 00
Ephraim B. Gates for Bridge Planks,		7 00
David Tenney for " " " "		19 37
Austin R. Smith for " " " "		23 29
C. L. Bugbee for " " and repairing bridge,		10 24
Rozel Hastings for repairing bridge,		3 00
Norris Hale for " " " "		8 00
Plincy Cooley for building road		27 70
Enos Calkins for damage to Land used for highway,		6 00
William McElwain for Labor done on highway,		6 50
Joshua Graves for repairing road, District No. 8,		2 50
John Ward for repairing Bridge near his house,		10 00
Marble K. Ferrell for breaking out roads, winter of 1856,		9 00
		<hr/>
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>		\$1,363 17

<i>To amount brought forward,</i>						\$1,363 17
James Snow,	for breaking out roads,	winter of 1856,				6 60
S. G. Shaw,	"	"	"	"	"	2 00
Eli Smith,	"	"	"	"	"	6 00
Jefferson Hill,	"	"	"	"	"	27 46
Freeman Foster,	"	"	"	"	"	5 65
Royal Buffington,	"	"	"	"	"	7 50
King Sedgwick,	"	"	"	"	"	5 00
Samuel D. Shaw,	"	"	"	"	"	2 10
William Harvey,	"	"	"	"	"	15 80
Justin Fuller,	"	"	"	"	"	13 00
Wilson Braynard,	"	"	"	"	"	3 00
Ephraim B. Gates,	"	"	"	"	"	6 00
Theodore Ferrell,	"	"	"	"	"	31 00
Loren F. Whiting,	"	"	"	"	"	13 00
Seva Brown,	"	"	"	"	"	11 00
A. R. Murdock, Jr.,	"	"	"	"	"	13 00
John R. Wellman,	"	"	"	"	"	2 00
Alfred Lamb,	"	"	"	"	"	3 00
Martin Shaw,	"	"	"	"	"	2 00
Amos P. Kendall,	"	"	"	"	"	10 00
Ralph Green,	"	"	"	"	"	7 80
Luther Collis,	for repairing and breaking out roads,					30 12
Joshua Graves,	for building railing and breaking out roads,					14 00
Jonathan Cooley,	for repairing bridge and " " "					2 75
Emerson Hastings,	for repairing bridge and breaking out roads, 1857,					13 95
Emerson Hastings,	for breaking out roads, winter of 1857,					27 60
Harding Hunt,	" " " " " "					25 28
Keyes Foster,	" " " " " "					11 70
Theodore Ferrell,	" " " " " "					55 00
William Blodgett,	for repairing road between Palmer and Brimfield,					7 00
Theodore Ferrell,	for repairing Northampton road,					29 00
Brown & Robinson,	for Nails, Spikes and Iron for Burley Bridge,					14 46
Augustus Barrett,	for Labor on highway and drawing Timber from Burley Bridge,					2 00
Preson P. Potter,	for use of derrick for Burley Bridge,					10 00
Enos Calkins,	for Plank furnished Cooley Bridge in 1855,					1 87
Nathan Howard,	for repairing bridges, Thorndike,					2 50
Mathew C. Fenton,	for repairing bridges, Palmer and Brimfield,					1 50
J. B. Merrick,	for Lumber furnished to repair Bridges in Thorndike,					11 00
Ephraim B. Gates,	for breaking out roads, winter 1857,					2 60
William Blodgett,	" " " " " "					6 00
Jefferson Hill,	" " " " " "					10 00
Moses Larnard,	for injury received on highway,					4 00
						<hr/>
						\$1,838 41

SUPPORT OF POOR.

	<i>Amount Paid.</i>
Elihu Jones, for services on Poor Farm, fiscal year 1855,	\$225 00
M. W. French, for merchandise, Poor Farm, fiscal year 1855,	106 36
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ 1856,	145 27
Hall & Shaw, “ “ furnished Rufus Bacon family,	3 38
Julius P. Shaw, “ “ “ “ “ “	12 62
O. H. Bidwell, “ “ “ Philip Lamb “	9 06
George Fleming for moving Philip Lamb family,	1 75
E. G. Murdock for merchandise furnished Thayer family,	14 08
Nathan Howard, for wood “ “ “	4 16
Horace Hunn, for assisting Charles Brigham’s “	37 36
“ “ “ burial expenses Charles Brigham’s child,	4 50
O. H. Bidwell, for merchandise furnished Charles Brigham’s family,	7 70
Jonathan McElwain, for milk furnished Charles Brigham’s family,	1 93
Daniel Mixter, for assisting Charles Brigham’s family,	5 16
Nancy Wright, for support of Charity Barker,	136 50
John F. Gerald, “ “ “ Mrs. Gerald,	74 00
Harriet Beazer, for assisting Mrs. Squire’s family,	10 00
Catherine Sullivan, for assisting Margaret Corney, pauper,	21 50
Town of Monson, for assisting Bester Family,	5 89
John Danchie, for assisting Ellen Elvin, pauper,	4 00
Michael Branan, for assisting Patrick Quilligan, pauper,	24 10
Margaret Larrey, “ “ Cyrus Chipman, 1854, pauper,	1 67
Harvey Wright “ “ Mrs. Hall, pauper,	5 00
Asa Shumway, for assisting pauper,	5 99
Cornelius Leary, for house rent,	2 50
Town of West Newbury, for support of Dwight L. Merrick family,	70 00
Levi A. Bailey, for Clothing for paupers,	6 00
Harvey Sedgwick, for Clothing for Henry Moore,	9 11
David Knox, for provisions and assistance rendered Charles L. Brigham’s family,	9 25
David Knox, for Rye furnished Bacon family,	1 00
Adolphus Homer, for Cow purchased for Poor Farm,	50 00
Abner Nutting, for Hay furnished David W. Darling,	14 00
Stephen W. Smith, for Meat for sundry poor,	19 71
David Parsons, for Labor on Poor House,	6 00
Dr. Aaron King, for Medical attendance, Bacon family,	39 14
Dr. Amasa Davis, “ “ “ Chauncey Squires’ family,	10 75
Dr. Samuel Shaw, for Medical attendance, sundry poor,	10 00
Dr. William Holbrook, “ “ “ “ 1855,	42 94
“ “ “ “ “ “ 1856,	55 30
“ “ “ for Stove purch’d for Poor House,	3 50
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	<hr/> \$1,216 18

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$1,216 18
Horace Hunn, for expenses attending pauper to Worcester,	7 70
Overseers Poor, for assisting sundry poor past year,	7 58
Arza Blodgett, for Shroud for Poor,	1 62
James S. Loomis, for Coffins for Sundry Poor,	12 00
Lewis Tenney, " " " " " "	14 00
William N. Packard, for Merchandise for Brigham family,	4 17
Ralph Green, for wood for Brigham family,	3 37
Thorndike Co., for House Rent for Thayer family,	15 00
Brown & Robinson, for Merchandise furnished for Poor Farm,	13 92
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	\$1,295 54

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

Amount Paid.

Chapman & Chamberlain, for professional services and money expended,	\$77 24
Samuel Bowles & Company, for printing Town Reports,	36 00
" " " " Diplomas and Advertising,	5 95
Fisk & Goff, for Printing and Advertising,	35 25
Russell Jenks, for one cord of wood for the Town,	4 50
Emory Strickland, for posting Warrants and notifying Town Officers,	15 20
Ralph Green, for repairing burial ground fence,	1 25
Jonathan McElwain, for opening graves and returning deaths,	10 80
Zadock Putnam, " " " " " "	9 90
Elias Turner, " " " " " "	9 90
David Knox, " " " " " "	
and services as Sexton,	46 00
E. Brown, for recording Births, Marriages and Deaths,	33 60
Norman Norton, for County Tax,	1,703 78
Parker W. Webster, for abatement of Taxes, 1854,	42 19
" " " " " " 1855,	66 55
" " " " Collecting School District Taxes,	20 00
" " " " Services Collector of Taxes, 1855,	150 00
Sylvenus G. Shaw, for Stationery for Assessors,	6 06
Sanford Howard, for services as Liquor Agent,	50 00
" " " Freight and Express bills paid,	5 92
" " " Liquors purchased as Town Agent,	250 03
William Holbrook, " " " "	122 45
" " for services as Liquor Aent,	12 50
Lyman S. Hills, for services Collector of Taxes the current year, 1856,	75 00
Lyman S. Hills, for services Collecting School District Taxes,	15 00
Calvin Torrey, for professional services rendered Selectmen and School Committee in 1852,	10 00
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<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$2,815 07

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$2,815 07
Horace Hunn, for expenses attending Town business abroad,	6 29
Selectmen, for Stationery and Postage,	3 68
State Treasurer for Interest on Town Debt,	228 00
“ “ “ State Tax,	1,332 00
Citizens' Insurance Office, (Brighton,) for Insurance on Town House and Poor Farm Property,	53 50
Abel Calkins' Heirs, for Note and Interest,	532 00
Abel Calkins' Heirs, for annual Interest, Town Debt,	120 00
Treasurer, for Interest on sundry Town Orders outstanding in 1855, after payment had been demanded,	18 16
Treasurer for Express Bills on Laws and Resolves, Election Returns, &c., &c.,	8 87
Treasurer, for Postage, Stationery, &c.,	6 09
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	\$5,123 66

TOWN OFFICERS.

	<i>Amount paid.</i>
Horace Hunn, Selectman,	\$43 25
Nathan Howard, do.	35 50
David Knox, do.	53 50
Ebenezer Brown, Treasurer,	30 00
Sylvenus G. Shaw, Assessor,	48 40
John Foster, do.	45 00
William Snow, do.	25 00
Ephraim B. Gates, School Committee,	47 50
Andrew D. Bullock, do.	54 48
Gamaliel Collins, do.	53 00
Horace Hunn, Overseer Poor,	33 00
Nathan Howard, do. do.	18 50
David Knox, do. do.	55 00
	<hr/> \$542 13

TOWN DEBT.

State Treasurer, (Note,) falls due Nov. 4, 1857,	\$3,800 00
Abel Calkins' Heirs, (four Notes,)	2,000 00
	<hr/> \$5,800 00

RECAPITULATION.

Amount paid for Schools,	\$2,946 50
“ “ Highways and Bridges,	1,838 41
“ “ Support of Poor,	1,295 54
“ “ Contingent Expenses,	5,123 66
“ “ Town Officers,	542 13
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	\$11,746 24
Total Amount of Receipts,	\$11,799 13
Total Amount of Expenditures,	11,746 24
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Balance in the Treasury, March 10, 1857,	\$52 89
Amount due from Lyman S. Hills, Collection, 1856,	\$455 01
“ “ “ State, for support State Paupers,	28 00
“ “ “ Heirs of Oliver Ferry for support of Molly Ferry, current year, to April 1, 1857,	25 00
“ “ “ Ephraim Fenton, (Note,)	50 00
“ “ “ Bonded Passenger,	175 00
“ “ “ Town of Monson, for School Money, due School District No. 8,	28 00
“ “ “ Interest on School Fund Note, due April 1, 1857,	49 50
“ “ “ Almon Smith, (Note,) on account of paupers,	50 00
“ “ “ Town of Marlboro, on account of Paupers, (as estimated,)	118 00
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	\$978 51
Balance in the Treasury, March 10, 1857,	52 89
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Total amount due the Town,	\$1,031 40
Amount due the several School Districts,	\$1,085 93
Outstanding Town Orders,	20 29
Due Superintendent Poor Farm, (salary April 1, 1857,)	250 00
Amount reported due the Town, considered by Selectmen to be very doubtful,	225 00
Estimated Abatements on Tax Bills in hands of L. S. Hills, Collector,	150 00
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	\$1,731 22
Balance against the Town,	\$699 82

All of which is respectfully submitted.

HORACE HUNN,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
NATHAN HOWARD,	
DAVID KNOX,	
	<i>of</i>
	<i>Palmer.</i>

TOWN VALUATION, &C.

Valuation Town of Palmer, 1856,	\$1,251,586
Reduced Valuation,	7,509,516
Amount raised to defray contingent Town Expenses, 1856,	3,000
" " for Common Schools,	2,000
" " " Graded School,	300
" " to apply on Town Debt,	1,000
" " " repair Highways and Bridges,	1,500
Number of Polls,	859
Poll Tax,	\$1,50
Tax 65 cents on \$100.	
Amount of Tax Bills in hands of Lyman S. Hills, Collector, 1856.	9,501 77

SYLVENUS G. SHAW, JOHN FOSTER, WILLIAM SNOW,	}	Assessors.
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